

panion little Eva, who with her golden locks and rosy cheeks is a most beautiful child, and prattled without ceasing. The Sykes have not returned, and their return is indefinite, for the Baronet is very unwell, and confined to his room.

Solitude at this moment suits me very well. The book surpasses all my hopes, but so little of the original sketch remains that you will scarcely recognise it. Assure my father that it is not now at all like *Pye*, which he seemed to fear. I think of dedicating it to the Duke in a long political prose; if so, I shall request his permission; but upon this dedication I have not determined.

Montagu Gore has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and asked me to stand for Devizes, which I have refused. Any place but Parliament at present. The time will, however, come, and is coming speedily. Gore, according to his address, resigns for two reasons; his health, and also because he has recanted and turned Tory! His health and head seem, equally weak. He is an ass, who has terminated an asinine career with a very characteristic bray.

I hunted the other day with Sir Henry Smythe's hounds, and although not in scarlet was the best mounted man in the field, riding Lady Sykes's Arabian mare, which I nearly killed, a run of 30 miles, and I stopped at nothing. I gained great *kudos*. The only Londoner I met was Henry Manners Sutton, who had come over to cover from Mistle Hall. He asked me to return with him, but as Lady Manners was not there, I saw no fun, and refused.

Write directly. Love to all,

Your affectionate D.

I told you, I believe, that Mrs. Norton had given me her portrait.

From, the Duke of Wellington.

STRA. THE FIELD > SAYE,
March 7,

1834. SIR,

I am really much flattered by your desire to dedicate to me by permission your Epic Poem.

Unfortunately I found myself under the necessity twenty years ago of determining that I would never give a formal ^{TM??TMSTask should} ~~it~~ be dedicated to me. I will ^{the reasons} ~~wer^irJr~~ for this determination. They ^{Tfor X ±T.n} ~~Tfor~~ for the adoption of another-viz., that I should peruse

